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alternating reception of a first field set and a second field set at a common receiver, wherein the first field set is associated with a first frequency, and the second field set is associated with a second frequency; and
simultaneously displaying the first field set and the second field set as full motion video.

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11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of simultaneously displaying includes simultaneously displaying the first field set and the second field set as full motion video on a single display device.
12. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of simultaneously displaying includes simultaneously displaying the first field set and the second field set as full motion video on different display devices.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blatter, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,275). Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13-30 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-6 and 8-12 remain in the application.

On January 8, 2002, Christopher J. Reckamp made a provisional election to the claims classified as Group I, claims 1-12. The election of Group I is hereby affirmed. Claims 13-20 are withdrawn from consideration without prejudice or disclaimer.

FIG. 7 has been amended to correct several typographical errors. In the caption of block 703, "A" has been changed to "THE". This change is made to correct a grammar error and to be consistent with the specification on page 8 line 22. In the caption of block 704, "FIRST" has been changed to "SECOND". This change is made to be consistent with the specification on page 8 line 27. In the caption of block 706, "A" has been changed to "THE". This change is made to be grammatically correct and to be consistent with the specification on page 9 line 7. Element 709 has been added to FIG. 7 directly after element 708 and is captioned "DISPLAY SECOND FIELD AT LOCATION SUBSTANTIALLY MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE WITH THE LOCATION THAT THE COMMON VIDEO IMAGE IS DISPLAYED AT." This is

consistent with the specification on page 9 lines 9-18. A corrected formal drawing of FIG. 7 has been submitted with this amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a grammar error and to be consistent with FIG. 7. Line 4 of claim 1 has been modified by changing "a" to "the". Claim 8 has been amended to correct a grammar error and to be consistent with FIG. 7. Line 4 of claim 8 has been modified by changing "a" to "the". These changes were made to correct grammar errors and do not effect the scope and meaning of the claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 9-12 were objected to as being informal. Claims 9, 11, and 12 mistakenly contained the word "frame" where the word "field" should have been used. Claims 9, 11, and 12 have been corrected by replacing "frame" with "field". These changes were made to correct a typographical error and do not effect the scope or meaning of the claims. Claim 10 did not contain the word "frame" so has not been modified.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blatter, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,275).

Blatter is directed to a method for receiving two video signals on the same channel using a single tuner (abstract). A second video signal is sent a few lines at a time along with the video of a first television signal (col. 2 lines 26-29). The two video signals are sent within one television channel (col. 2 lines 37-40). Hence the tuner does not need to switch between two channels to receive the two frequencies. In one embodiment, the second video is sent a few lines at a time within the vertical blanking interval of the first video signal (col. 2 lines 64-67). In a second embodiment, the second video is sent a few lines at a time in the vertical overscan area of the first video signal (col. 2 line 67 to col. 3 line 4). The vertical overscan area is a portion of a television picture that is not normally displayed (col. 2 line 67 to col. 3 line 2). Blatter also describes a transmitter that can produce a signal that is a combination of all but one line of signal from a first video source and one line of a second video source for use with the method of receiving two video signals on the same channel (col. 7 lines 8-17).

Summarizing briefly, the present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for receiving two video signals associated with two different frequencies using a single receiver.

The receiver alternates between receiving the two video signals by switching between the two frequencies. Hence the apparatus only receives a portion of the information for each of the video signals.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of tuning a system comprising tuning a receiver to a first system; receiving a first field of video associated with the first frequency; tuning the receiver to a second frequency; and receiving a second field of video associated with the second frequency, wherein the first field of video and the second field of video are adjacent in time. Claim 1 is distinguishable from Blatter for the reason, inter alia, that the method of Blatter does not teach of tuning a receiver to two different frequencies to receive two fields of video that are adjacent in time and associated with different frequencies. Instead, Blatter receives two separate video sources on a single frequency by receiving the second video source during the blanking period or vertical scan area of a first video source. Hence claim 1 is allowable. Claims 6 adds additional novel subject matter to claim 1 is also allowable for at least the reason that it is dependant on claim 1.

Claim 2 adds to the method of claim 1 that the step of tuning the receiver to a second frequency comprises tuning the receiver to the second frequency during a vertical blanking interval. Because, in one embodiment Blatter receives the second video signal during the video blanking interval, Blatter teaches away from tuning a receiver to a second frequency during the video blanking interval. Hence, for at least this reason claim 2 is allowable.

Claim 3 adds to the method of claim 1 the step of providing a second frequency indicator to the receiver prior to the step of tuning the receiver to a second frequency. Because Blatter teaches of receiving both of the video signals on a single frequency, Blatter does not teach of providing a second frequency indicator to the receiver prior to the step of tuning the receiver to a second frequency. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 3 is allowable.

Claim 4 adds to the method of claim 3 that the second frequency indicator is provided in less then approximately 1.2 milliseconds. Since Blatter does not teach of providing a second frequency indicator to the receiver prior to the step of tuning, Blatter cannot teach of providing the second frequency indicator in less than approximately 1.2 milliseconds. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 3 is allowable.

Claim 5 adds to the method of claim 1 the steps of displaying the first field; tuning the receiver to the first frequency after the step of receiving the second field; receiving a third field

associated with the first frequency; displaying the third field wherein the first field and the third field are adjacent frames of a common video image. Because Blatter does not teach of receiving two video signals on two different frequencies, Blatter does not teach of the step of tuning the receiver to the first frequency after the step of receiving the second field. Hence, for at least this reason, claim 5 is allowable.

Claim 8 is directed to a method of providing video. The method comprising the steps of tuning a receiver to a first frequency; receiving a first field of the video associated with the first frequency; tuning the receiver to a second frequency; receiving a second field of video associated with the second frequency wherein the first field of video and the second field of video are adjacent in time; tuning the receiver to the first frequency; receiving a third field of video associated with the first frequency; displaying an image based upon the first field at a first location of a display device; displaying an image based upon the second field at a second location of display device wherein the first location and the second location are substantially, mutually exclusive; and displaying an image based upon the third field at the first location of the display device to provide a full motion video sequence. Claim 8 is distinguishable from Blatter for the reason, inter alia, that the method of Blatter does not teach of tuning a receiver to different frequencies to receive two fields of video that are adjacent in time. Instead, Blatter receives two separate video sources on a single frequency by transmitting the second video source during the blanking period of the vertical scan area of a first video source. Therefore, for at least this reason claim 8 is allowable.

Claim 9 adds to the method of claim 8 a method of displaying video. The method comprising the steps of alternating reception of a first field set and a second field set at a common receiver, wherein the first field set is associated with the first frequency, and the second field set is associated with the second frequency; and simultaneously displaying the first field set and the second field set as full motion video. Because Blatter does not teach of receiving video signals associated with multiple frequencies, Blatter does not teach of alternating reception of a first field set in a second field set at a common receiver. Hence, for at least this reason, claim 9 is allowable. Claims 11 is dependent upon claim 9, which has been shown to be allowable. Moreover, claims 11 introduces additional novel subject matter that represents patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants believe claim 11 to be allowable.

Claim 10 adds to the method of claim 9 that the step of alternating includes alternating reception of a first field set and a second field set at a common receiver in approximately 1.2 milliseconds. Blatter does not teach of alternating reception of a first field set and a second field set that are associated with first and second frequencies. Therefore, Blatter does not teach of alternating reception of a first field set and a second field set in approximately 1.2 milliseconds. Hence, for at least this reason, claim 10 is allowable.

Claim 12 adds to the method of claim 9 that the step of simultaneously displaying includes simultaneously displaying the first field set and the second field set as full motion video on different display devices. Blatter does not teach of displaying video on multiple display devices. Instead, Blatter displays two video programs on one display device using picture in picture (FIG. 3). For at least this reason, claim 12 is allowable.

Applicants have made certain amendments to the claims. These amendments were made only to correct minor typographical errors and grammatical informalities. Further, Applicant submit that none of these amendments introduce new matter into the specification or change the scope of the claimed subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed agent if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute claims 1, 8, 9, 10, and 11 below for the claims having corresponding numbers:

1. A method for tuning a system comprising:

tuning a receiver to a first frequency;

receiving a first field of video associated with the first frequency;

tuning [a] the receiver to a second frequency; and

receiving a second field of video associated with the second frequency, wherein the first field of video and the second field of video are adjacent in time.

8. A method of providing video, the method comprising:

tuning a receiver to a first frequency;

receiving a first field of video associated with the first frequency;

tuning [a] the receiver to a second frequency;

receiving a second field of video associated with the second frequency, wherein the first field of video and the second field of video are adjacent in time;

tuning the receiver to the first frequency;

receiving a third field of video associated with the first frequency;

displaying an image based upon the first field at a first location of a display device;

displaying an image based upon the second field at a second location of a display device,

wherein the first location and the second location are substantially mutually exclusive; and

displaying an image based upon the third field at the first location of the display device to provide a full motion video sequence.

9. A method of displaying video, the method comprising:

alternating reception of a first field set and a second field set at a common receiver,

wherein the first field set is associated with a first frequency, and the second [frame] field set is associated with a second frequency; and

simultaneously displaying the first field set and the second field set as full motion video.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of simultaneously displaying includes simultaneously displaying the first field set and the second [frame] field set as full motion video on a single display device.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of simultaneously displaying includes simultaneously displaying the first field set and the second [frame] field set as full motion video on different display devices.

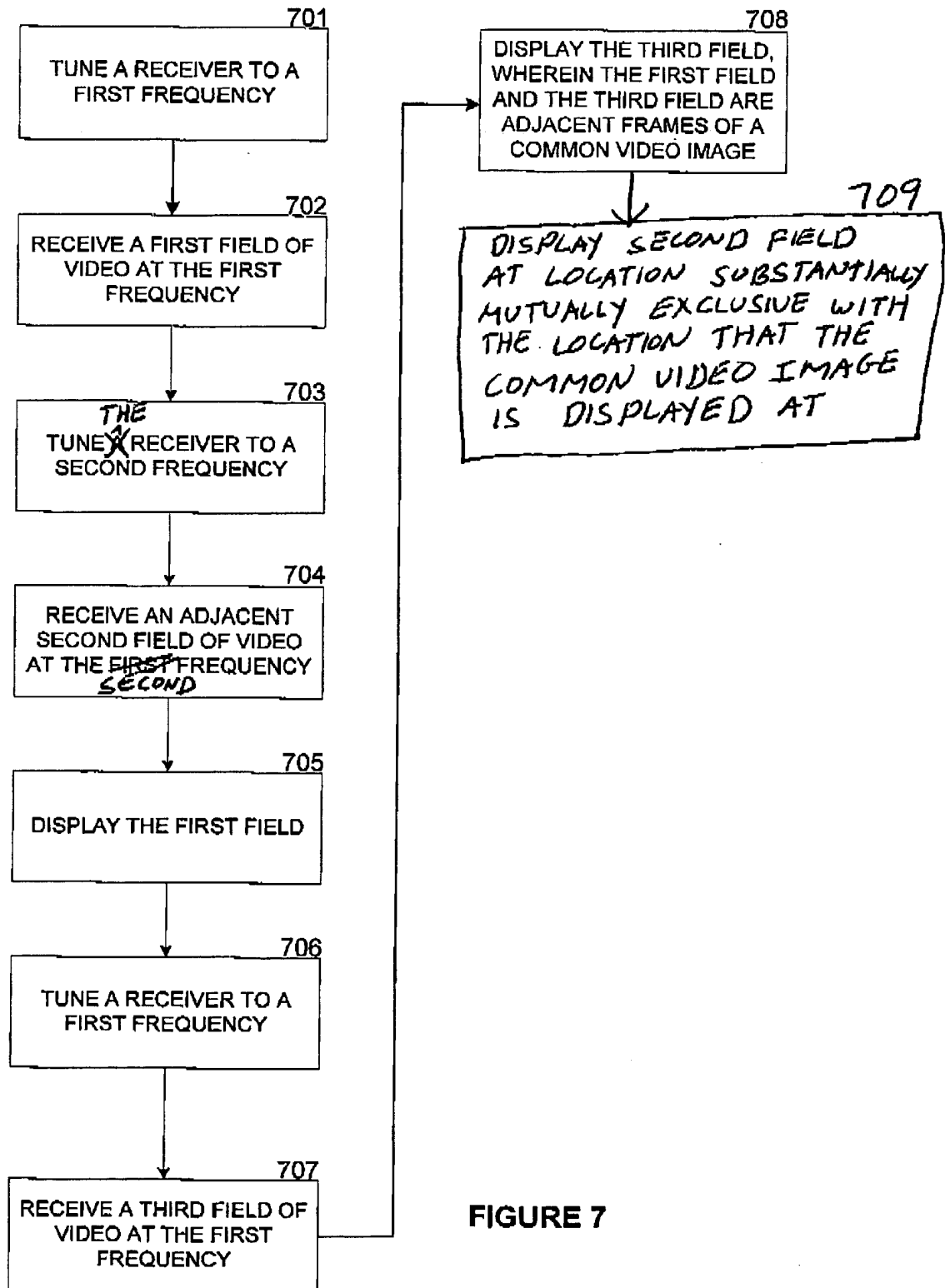


FIGURE 7